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## FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB OF VICTORIA.

### EXCURSION TO RINGWOOD, SATURDAY, 13TH SEPT.

As usual this season, the day fixed for this excursion turned out unpleasant in the morning, and finally rain set in. However, about ten members arrived at Ringwood by the 1.20 p.m. train. It was now raining slightly, but the paddocks were very wet. On a consultation being held, five decided to try their luck, the remainder of the party returning to town.

A southerly direction was taken, towards the Dandenong Creek, which it was intended to reach if weather permitted. The members found the country very soft, and were not particularly well rewarded for their perseverance. The orchid *Caladenia deformis*, with its pretty blue flowers, was very conspicuous in many places; others, such as *Pterostylis nutans*, *nana*, and *curta* were also seen; also *C. carnea*, *patersoni*, and two or three *Diuris*. Of flowering plants nothing particularly rare was seen, though about forty species were noted during the walk; of these, perhaps *Euphrasia brownii* seemed the rarest. On reaching the banks of the creek a fine growth of trees and shrubs was seen. *Acacia dealbata* had made a fine display, but was now over. *Bursaria*, *Prostantheras*, *Pomaderris*, *Leptospermum*, &c., where here in abundance, and the locality should reward our entomologist later in the season.

In entomology little was done, the weather being too bad. Specimens of butterflies—*Vanessa Kershawi* and *V. itea*—were seen, and several small moths and larvæ taken. A longicorn, *Phoracantha* (sp.), was about the only other insect taken.

F. G. A. B.

### EXCURSION TO CHELTENHAM.

THE weather on the day fixed for the Cheltenham excursion—27th September—was even more unpromising than that of the Ringwood one, and it was, therefore, not very surprising that only five members met on the Cheltenham platform, nor that these five immediately began to discuss the best way of getting home again. The rain was coming down in torrents, and the sky had a uniformly grey appearance that boded ill for any change for the better. But we were in a cheerful frame of mind, and preferred to point out how the dark background showed off the beauties of the lightwood and other shrubs in the enclosure opposite to us. That form of amusement being exhausted, two members returned

to town by the next train ; while the others of us determined to take the tram to Sandringham.

At first our environment was certainly gloomy, but at Beaumaris the rain entirely ceased and allowed a little botanizing, though walking in the heath scrub was very like taking a foot-bath. It is needless to say that we obtained many beautiful flowers, but none were of much scientific interest. The Coast Tea Tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*) was at its best, and, quite on the shore, the Native Currant (*Styphelia richii*) was also covered with its beautifully soft flowers. Amongst the heath, which was still flowering freely, were *Ricinocarpus pinifolius* and the small Tea Tree (*Leptospermum myrsinoides*), the latter not yet well in bloom. The common orchid, *Glossodia major*, was very abundant and of large size, and with it we found *Diuris longifolia*, *D. maculata*, *Thelymitra antennifera*, *Caladenia latifolia*, and *C. deformis*. Species of other orders, and worth mentioning as just beginning their flowering season, were *Stylidium graminifolium*, *Caesia vittata*, and *Bulbine bulbosa*.

After some time spent in finding these and numerous other flowers we entered a passing tramcar bound for Sandringham. The sun was now shining brightly, making the Tea Tree on either side less dull and its blossoms even more brilliantly white than usual. The drive along the winding coast road was thus a very pretty one, and made a satisfactory end to an excursion that was certainly not entirely spoiled in spite of its gloomy beginning.

J. STEPHEN HART.

#### MELTON EXCURSION.

At the appointed time, 11.30, on Saturday, October 11, three members of the Field Naturalists' Club met at the Spencer-street station, and having congratulated themselves that, if the company was not numerous, it was, at all events, select, tickets were obtained, and on approaching the train a cheery voice announced two more members already seated, whilst in an adjoining carriage was a friend who has determined to join our ranks and had been asked to accompany us. A threatening sky and high wind forebode an unpleasant afternoon, but by the time Rockbank was reached all fears on the score of weather were dispelled. Along the train route we frequently saw the pretty Nankeen Kestrel, Crow Shrikes, Ephthianura, and Black-breasted Plover. The latter birds are already through their hatching, and a flock of great size was seen just before reaching Melton. As soon as the train stopped at the latter place a start was made in a south-westerly direction for about half-a-mile, during which Pallid Cuckoos, Rosella Parrakeets, Sordid Wood Swallows, Spotted-sided Finches, Ephthianura, and other well-known birds were met with. During a northerly course of another half-mile our attention was called to the peculiar con-